

Durham County Animal Control Advisory Committee

March 25, 2008 Meeting Minutes

Amanda Arrington presiding

Minutes from previous meeting were reviewed and approved with one amendment – Melinda had discussed the possibility of obtaining computers in the trucks that could interface with both APS and Animal Control.

Animal Control Update: Melinda introduced several Animal Control Officers - Officers Christopher Hammond, James Fitzherbert and Chad Old and Tyangus Asad-Majid. The committee was made aware that Officers are not equipped with bullet proof vests which are mandatory while on duty. Melinda discussed the Animal Control activity and impound reports. Cindy will be returning to duty in the next few weeks. Officers are currently attending scheduled trainings to enhance career development and qualifications in the field including attending National Animal Control Association training and Chemical Immobilization training.

Shelter Update: Adoptions are down slightly. There has been an increase in the numbers of returns to owner due to limiting past due licensing fees and reclaiming of more bite quarantine animals. There is no longer a breed-specific restriction, although certain breeds will be held to higher standards when evaluating temperament. Landlord and apartment restrictions are resulting in a decrease in the adoption of certain breeds. Rebecca Hankins has been appointed the new development director for APS. Future projects include the Annual Gala April 19, the Walk for Animals May 17, continuing the Kids Club, and a camp this summer to target low-income youth. APS is working with the county to replace the roof and cooling system and has submitted a request for money to replace the floors. The staff at APS is hearing more complaints that people are unable to afford their animals. APS plans to develop and customer satisfaction survey in the next 3-4 months. An automated phone answering system has been implemented.

Chaining Ordinance Update: Discussed changing size requirements for small vs. large dogs instead of one size for all breeds. Amanda will make amendments to the language and e-mail to committee for a vote. If the committee approves the amendment the proposed ordinance will be passed on to the county commissioners.

Old Business: Becky discussed a case regarding the wrongful shooting of a dog in Durham and suggested that the Police need more training regarding the management of animals. Becky agreed to speak with the Mayor, Police Chief, and Sheriff about the issue and to report back at the next meeting.

New Business: Melinda posed questions to Jan and Marie regarding search warrants and the execution of warrants. Marie stated that she was unable to comment on the question and that the issue would have to be discussed privately. Jan Paul stated that Animal Control has the legal right to swear out any charges and warrants as long as they present probable cause to the magistrate and reiterated that law enforcement (Sheriff Deputies or

Police Officers) executes the actual warrants. Marie noted a portion of the ordinance which she felt was too open to interpretation based on the subjective nature of the wording. She will review the wording and make a recommendation. Becky requested information regarding the advantage/disadvantages of Chameleon. Melinda stated that she had already submitted a proposal which was denied by Mike Turner.

Next Meeting: May 27, 2008